

REMARKS

The Final Office Action dated February 11, 2005, has been carefully considered. Claims 17-38 are pending. The above amendments and following remarks are presented in a sincere attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. Claims 17 and 21 have been amended in this Response. Claims 1-16 and 39-46 have been cancelled in this Response. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

An interview was held with the Examiner, Mr. Jeff W. Natalini, on March 10, 2005, to discuss the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and the proposed amendments thereto. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his time and the courtesies extended.

Claims 17-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of U.S. Patent 6,597,249 to Chien (“Chien”). Insofar as these rejections may be applied against the amended claims, they are deemed overcome.

Claim 17 has been amended to include a distinguishing feature of the present invention. The language, “measuring *a minimum and a maximum output frequency* of the VCO...; and determining lock and capture range of the PLL based on the measured *minimum and maximum* frequencies” has been added to Claim 17. Support for this amendment can be found, among other places, page 7, line 25, through page 8, line 11, of the original Application.

The Chien reference does not suggest, teach, or disclose measuring a minimum and maximum frequency of the VCO to determine a lock and capture range of a phase lock loop (“PLL”). Specifically, Chien discloses the fine tuning of the VCO by matching the PLL’s frequency to a finite reference frequency. The present invention applies a number of test voltages to the VCO to determine a minimum and a maximum output frequency of the VCO. This process does not involve fine tuning the VCO, but determining its lock and capture range by applying test

voltages and measuring a minimum and a maximum output frequency. Therefore, the frequency output specifics of the VCO can be determined through a set of tests. This feature of the present invention is not disclosed in the Chien reference.

In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that the cited reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest the unique combination recited in Claim 17. Applicants therefore submit that Claim 17 is both clearly and precisely distinguishable over the cited reference in a patentable sense, and is therefore allowable over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Chien be withdrawn and that Claim 17 be allowed.

Claims 18-20 depend upon and further limit Claim 17. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, these Claims should be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of dependent Claims 18-20 also be withdrawn.

Claim 21 has been amended to include a distinguishing feature of the present invention. The language, “*a frequency measuring module for measuring a minimum and a maximum VCO output frequency...; and means for determining lock and capture range of the PLL based upon the measured minimum and maximum VCO output frequencies*” has been added to Claim 21. Support for this amendment can be found, among other places, page 7, line 25, through page 8, line 11, of the original Application. For at least the aforementioned reasons that amended Claim 17 should be deemed to be in condition for allowance, this Claim should also be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Specifically, the Chien reference does not suggest, teach, or disclose measuring a minimum and maximum frequency of the VCO to determine a lock and capture range of a PLL.

In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that the cited reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest the unique combination recited in Claim 21. Applicants therefore submit that Claim 21 is

both clearly and precisely distinguishable over the cited reference in a patentable sense, and is therefore allowable over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Chien be withdrawn and that Claim 21 be allowed.

Claims 22-24, 29-32 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Chien, and U.S. Publication 2003/0071748 to Huang (“Huang”). Insofar as these rejections may be applied against the amended claims, they are deemed overcome. Claims 22-24, 29-32, and 37 directly or indirectly depend upon and further limit Claim 21. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, these Claims should be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of dependent Claims 22-24, 29-32, and 37 also be withdrawn.

Claims 25-28 and 33-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Chien, Huang, and U.S. Patent 6,492,798 to Sunter (“Sunter”). Insofar as these rejections may be applied against the amended claims, they are deemed overcome. Claims 25-28 and 33-36 directly or indirectly depend upon and further limit Claim 21. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, these Claims should be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of dependent Claims 25-28 and 33-36 also be withdrawn.

Claim 38 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Chien, Huang, and U.S. Patent 4,851,712 to Imai (“Imai”). Insofar as this rejection may be applied against the amended claims, it is deemed overcome. Claim 38 indirectly depends upon and further limits Claim 21. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, this Claim should be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of dependent Claim 38 also be withdrawn.

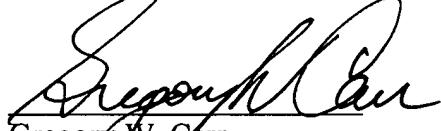
Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of Claims 17-38.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due; however, in the event that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0605 of CARR LLP.

Should the Examiner deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CARR LLP


Gregory W. Carr
Reg. No. 31,093

Dated: 3/21/05
CARR LLP
670 Founders Square
900 Jackson Street
Dallas, Texas 75202
Telephone: (214) 760-3030
Fax: (214) 760-3003